



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES October 27, 2014

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chair
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Phyllis Piotrow, New London Resident
Jim Perkins, Town Archivist
Bruce Hudson & Renate Kannler, New London Residents
John Wilson, Budget Committee Chair
Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Steven Ensign, Board of Firewards
Jason Lyon, Fire Chief
Minette Sweeney, *The Intertown Record*

Chair Kidder opened the meeting at 6:00pm. She offered the floor to Jim Perkins, Town Archivist.

Jim Perkins, Town Archivist – Whipple Memorial Town Hall

Mr. Perkins said that his department has documented the history and significance of Whipple Hall, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015. The Archives Committee would like to have the building put on the State Register and designated as a historic place. There would be no restrictions on what the Town could do with the property if it is added to the list, rather it could actually help the Town attain funding for refurbishment of the building through LCHIP (Land & Community Heritage Investment Program) or the Moose-plate program.

Chair Kidder thanked Mr. Perkins for the very interesting presentation he gave last week on Whipple Hall, which she attended. She noted that Mr. Perkins has been able to identify some structural problems with the building and hoped these issues will be considered when the building maintenance budget is being discussed.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to support the nomination of Whipple Memorial Town Hall to the State Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Perkins said the State has already determined that Whipple Hall is eligible for inclusion on the register. The State's next meeting that will address this issue will be in January, which is the earliest time that the designation can be made official.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist noted that since the last meeting, she has provided the Selectmen with a copy of the deed for the Academy Building, which requires that the Town maintain the appearance of the building essentially unchanged. Any change in the appearance (changing the color or putting an addition on the front), would require approval of the grantor, Colby-Sawyer College. This answers Selectman Bianchi's question from a previous meeting as to whether the Town would be able to put vinyl siding on the Academy Building, or doing other maintenance.

With regards to the Mary Haddad Trust, Ms. Hallquist said that Bart Mayer, Town Counsel, suggests having a meeting with the Trustees, Conservation Commission and the Recreation Department to come up with a protocol on how to proceed with the funds. If the Town decides to accept the money that was left to it through this trust, a public hearing must be held. Once the Town accepts the money it will be held by the Trustees and the agreed upon protocol will guide how the funds can be spent.

Ms. Hallquist shared that Nobis Engineering, the engineering firm that monitors the old town landfill, noticed a couple of minor issues with some slopes at the landfill, due to some erosion. The engineering firm has contacted DES to let them know about this issue, as is mandatory, and Richard Lee (Public Works Director) is also aware. The Public Works Department will do some work now to shore things up and will address it further in the spring.

It was noted by Ms. Hallquist that the Town does not currently have an Ethics Policy. This is something the auditors (who did their audit of New London the previous week) have frequently asked about. A sample policy was provided that is used by the Town of Sunapee. The Board will consider the issue and discuss again at a future meeting.

Ms. Hallquist explained that the Pleasant Lake Dam has been set to winter level and Matt Grimes, Buildings Maintenance worker, renovated the gate house which was in need of repairs. Dr. Wilson said that the protocol is that this be done in November. He opined that people on the lake need to know about this change so they can get their boats out. Dr. Wilson said Pleasant Lake is currently 7-8" over summer-level and thinks the gate isn't open sufficiently for the amount of water that is coming in. Ms. Hallquist said they would need to talk with Mr. Lee about the issue. Dr. Wilson said he hopes going forward that the Town will inform the PLPA when things happen that concern Pleasant Lake. Ms. Hallquist said they would. All who have seen the gate house remarked at how nice it looked.

Ms. Hallquist shared that some complaints have come in about speeding cars on Forest Acres Road. She asked Mr. Lee to install a 25mph sign on the Bog Road side and she has also let Chief Andersen know about the complaints.

It has come to the attention of the Town that the owner of the property that contains the access to Clark Lookout has closed the gate. Apparently he feels there are some dangerous trees in the area and doesn't want people to be injured. Ms. Hallquist said the owner will be contacted to find a solution as the Town has an easement to use the property and this closure is a violation of that easement.

With regards to beaver dams in the Low Plain and Kidder-Cleveland-Clough (KCC) trail areas, the Conservation Commission is working to alleviate problems caused by the damming of waterways. That day, Bob Brown, Conservation Commission Chair, and some others met to look at the dam near the KCC trail and hope to install something called a "Beaver Deceiver" in the next three weeks. This device allows the beavers to continue to build a dam while also allowing water to flow. It was noted that the beavers will not be removed.

Ms. Hallquist said that the Kearsarge Regional School District budget hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 7pm. The offer has been extended to have a special presentation made to the Selectmen if they are unable to make this meeting.

Ms. Hallquist shared that this Wednesday would be the Chad Denning Memorial Walk to School Day, as it was postponed from last week due to inclement weather.

Receipt of a letter was noted from Dale Milne of the Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association who wished to thank the Town for its help with preventing invasive species in the lake by supporting its weed watcher program.

Ms. Hallquist noted that the first Budget Committee meeting for the FY2016 budget will be held on Wednesday (October 29th) at 7:00pm in the Syd Crook Conference Room.

Ms. Hallquist said that the Employee Committee planned to meet the following day to work on their presentation for the December 8th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Chair Kidder thought Scott Blewitt did a great job promoting the Pumpkin People contest in town and congratulated the Fire Department for winning one of the awards. It was felt by many that the contest was a success and drew participation from many throughout town.

New Business

New London Energy Committee – Solarize Kearsarge

Ms. Hallquist said the Energy Committee would like to put a sign on Town property that will show how many homes go solar. This will be a sign that looks like a thermometer, common for use in fundraising. The Board reviewed two examples as submitted by the Energy Committee. Selectman Bianchi said the sign didn't meet the sign ordinance and if someone else (a non-town authorized group) wanted to put it up, they would be denied. Chair Kidder said the Selectmen supported this initiative earlier in the fall and they should continue supporting it. Ms. Hallquist said no firm decisions have been made on the size of the sign or how long the Energy Committee would like to the sign to be displayed, at this point, they would just like to know if the Selectmen would allow a sign. She added that the Energy Committee would like to put the sign in a spot that is most visible, such as in front of the Academy Building or in front of the bandstand. She suggested that if the Selectmen are in favor of allowing the sign, they should give some direction to the Energy Committee as to what size they would approve and then the Committee could come back with a design. Chair Kidder thought the Energy Committee should be asked to provide a sketch of the design for the Selectmen to look at and make a decision. She did not think the sign should go in front of the bandstand, as it is a busy place.

Change in Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade SRF Loan

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that the town's engineer, Dave Mercier of Underwood Engineers, suggests that the town request the town's loan be amended to the maximum allowed by the town meeting votes: \$5,585,000 (\$5.4 million for construction and the engineering was \$385,000.) The current loan amount is \$5,400,000. Selectman Bianchi wasn't sure about the interest rates they were paying on the engineering and sewer. Ms. Williams said they will pay 3.104% on the loan. She explained that they paid off the \$385,000 loan with the bond proceeds from the \$5.4 million dollars so they could have that loan in the same loan as the construction loan, which is from the State Revolving Fund (SRF). They will start paying interest on the SRF loan one year after substantial completion of the plant is reached. The highest the loan can go is \$5.585 million dollars. Ms. Hallquist suggested getting authorization for this amount although it is not likely they will need that much. Ms. Williams said the construction interest has been accruing all along at 1%.

Chair Kidder said it seemed like a logical thing to do. Ms. Hallquist said they will not spend any more than they have matching funds from Sunapee for. The State will allow them to have these bonds together because they are for one project.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to request an increase in the town's SRF loan for the Sunapee Wastewater Plant upgrade project to \$5,585,000 (the maximum appropriated by town meeting).
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Old/Pending

Public Safety Communications Study

Selectman Bianchi said the Selectmen have never discussed the study prepared by Robert Barry of Primex. Selectman Bianchi noted that one point he got from the study is that the cost of dispatch will spike the first year and will go down in subsequent years, if the town goes to an outside provider. Also, there will be no decrease in service for the Town if they were to dispatch with two separate entities. The report suggests that Merrimack County and Lake's Region Fire could provide dispatch at the same or better level than they are currently getting. Outsourcing doesn't necessarily mean poor service. Selectman Bianchi said the report didn't discuss their recent capital improvements. New London's cost of dispatch looked to be over \$300,000 for the first year. He thinks this is a substantial increase which he doesn't feel could be justified. He thinks the cost of keeping dispatch in New London, from the figures they have, is going to be way too much in comparison with what the other towns are being asked to pay. He thinks they need to look long and hard at the reason they do or do not want to keep dispatch in New London.

Selectman Bianchi recommended that the member towns be notified that they would be charged, in part, for capital expenses. They shouldn't promise that capital expenses wouldn't be charged in the future. With regards to the \$273,000 grant Chief Andersen applied for (to put a repeater on the top of Mount Sunapee), Selectman Bianchi believed this would only help the towns of Newbury and Sunapee, and possibly Goshen if they decided to come back to New London Dispatch. He did not feel that this expense should be paid by New London.

Selectman Bianchi said the New London Selectmen never voted for scenario #2, although scenario #2 was presented at the October 11th meeting with the member town select boards as the Board's choice. Ms. Hallquist agreed that there was no vote, but said there was a consensus of the New London Selectmen to favor scenario #2. Selectman Bianchi said the member towns should be made aware that they quite possibly may be asked to pay for capital costs in the future. He also didn't think outsourcing dispatch would be detrimental to the Town.

Selectman Rollins recalled presenting the option they had discussed (#2) and noted that this first year (2015) they wouldn't be charged for capital costs, but that the other towns were charged with going back to their boards to share what they had discussed. They also talked about amortizing capital costs going forward and having a longer-term agreement with New London. They talked about having a more detailed discussion about the safety report, but now they need to get the member town representatives back together to discuss how the Town will continue with dispatch. She understood there were two other towns that were interested in joining dispatch. Having more towns join could help in the event that a town decides to leave the service or it could help all the towns by lowering the costs for everyone.

Selectman Rollins said the quality of the dispatch service is important to the other towns. It is clear in the report that if New London decides to go with another agency, they won't have a say in the service.

Ms. Piotrow thought the minutes should be made available for the Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting that was held on October 11th with the member towns. Also, the Town agreed that they shouldn't ask the member towns to pay capital costs because New London had not provided the proper equipment and materials in the past. The first year they shouldn't be asking for this help. Selectman Bianchi said it sounded at the meeting as though the member towns were very happy with the service they were getting from New London Dispatch.

Chair Kidder said they have not received complaints about dispatch and she, personally, has never heard one negative comment about dispatch. If they (dispatching) are to move forward, they need to make sure their equipment is serviceable and if they need to replace things, they need to do so. The equipment has not been maintained over the last several years for some reason but they hope to rectify this going forward. They will work over the next year to get an agreement between New London and the member towns that will likely include capital costs, and valuation, and they will have something similar to how they facilitate the school district and wastewater services. She has heard that other dispatch services in the area were not as attentive as New London Dispatch is. She feels the citizens want to keep dispatch in New London.

Selectman Bianchi asked what would happen if the other towns didn't want to sign a long term agreement. Would that change Chair Kidder's opinion on how to move forward? Chair Kidder said she didn't want to make decisions on "what-ifs" at this point.

Chief Andersen said a 100% grant for a repeater on Mt. Sunapee has been applied for in the amount of \$273,000. Having this second repeater would enable the dispatchers to select which frequency is the best depending on the location of the officer/firefighter communicating with them. The largest amount of money from the grant will go to install simulcast equipment on the tower at the Police Department. Chief Lyon said the repeater would be going directly on the building at the top of Mt. Sunapee and not on the tower. They might not have attained space on the tower if that was their only option. Additionally, the charge would be more substantial for placement on the tower than it is on the building.

Chief Lyon also indicated having the repeater on top of Sunapee would be beneficial for triangulation. It would be a benefit to Sunapee, Newbury and Sutton, but also to the Town of New London. Selectman Bianchi asked what would happen if they didn't get the grant. Chief Andersen said he would continue to apply for grants. The other towns are happy with the service they are getting now, but with the new repeater on Sunapee, their radios would work much better.

Selectman Bianchi wondered if the Fire and Police Departments would be trying to get this repeater if there wasn't a grant available. Chief Lyon said they would. They are building upon their service and he noted there were three sites mentioned several years ago where repeaters could be installed to increase their range of service. He thought the repeater on Mt. Kearsarge was a great first step but there are other options out there, such as Mt. Sunapee.

Selectman Bianchi wondered if any of these improvements would add to New London's redundancy or back-up. Chief Lyon said Sunapee has radio communications they may be able to look at. Ms. Hallquist, Chief Andersen and Heidi Dunlop (dispatch) are looking into this as a possibility.

John Wilson said after 9/11 the government realized that many departments couldn't talk with each other and needed interoperability. Motorola came up with "P-25" compatibility to allow more communication over smaller frequencies. The Government continued to cut the bandwidth that is permissible, and wants to keep cutting it in half again and again. He wondered if the Town can be assured that the equipment they are getting will be able to be modified in the future to handle these challenges and keep moving

forward. His recommendation was to get quotes from companies other than Beltronics. He observed that Beltronics has provided numbers on the estimate, but no equipment was specified. How can they compare this estimate with an estimate from another company? Dr. Wilson was also concerned that all this new equipment was being put in the same room as the main valve system for the sprinkler system in Whipple Hall.

Chief Andersen said he has reached out to Ossipee Mountain Electronics but found they were not interested in putting in a lot of effort to give an estimate because they didn't anticipate getting the Town's business. Selectman Bianchi said if there is technical information they don't have, they should try and get it to bring to other vendors to see what their costs would be. Selectman Rollins agreed and said perhaps they should find an unbiased expert who can tell them about how long their equipment will last.

Chief Lyon said as the past president of the New Hampshire Fire Chief's Association, he knows there are people who they may be able to hire as a consultant who are not sales people. He offered that the first phase for narrow-banding took a long time to implement (about 20 years); whatever they are purchasing now will be outdated and replaced before that would happen again. Dr. Wilson said he believes the pace of things is picking up due to terrorism and outside threats. He stressed that if New London does keep dispatching then it should be done right and the proper equipment should be in place.

Chair Kidder asked the Chiefs if they would try to find someone to ask about consulting for New London in regards to dispatching equipment. Chief Lyon said he knew someone from the Grafton County Sheriff's Department who is familiar with the dispatching side of things who could be approached. Chair Kidder asked Ms. Hallquist to gather some examples of multiple-town agreements that they could manipulate to fit their needs. Ms. Hallquist said she could; a major factor would be how much the other towns would want to be bound to New London Dispatch.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Selectman Bianchi said the CIP committee met the previous week. They would meet again the following night. Discussions have been extensive with many ideas coming forth. Something will come to the Board of Selectmen as a CIP draft they can discuss soon. It is a work in progress.

Minutes of October 13, 2014

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the minutes of October 13, 2014, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

Planning Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00pm

Budget Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 29th at 7:00pm

Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, November 10th at 6:00pm

Citizen's Advisory Committee – Saturday, November 15th at 7:30am at Tracy Memorial Library

Other Business

Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer, said the Town is buying Worker's Compensation Insurance with Primex this year as it is considerably less than Property Liability Trust (PLT). If the Town signs up for a commitment for two more years Primex would offer a 10% maximum increase per year. Ms. Johnson said this is something LGC used to offer the Town in the past, and the Town had taken advantage of this deal. Chair Kidder didn't feel comfortable locking in for two years. Ms. Johnson noted that the Town could go through one cycle with Primex before signing on for anything more long-term; they may offer the same deal to the Town in the future. It was decided not to lock in the rate offered by Primex at this time.

Tax Rate

Selectman Bianchi wondered if New London was in the queue yet to find out their tax rate. Ms. Johnson said she the town was not in the queue when she last checked, but they had submitted all of the necessary information to the Department of Revenue and now had to wait.

Application for Building Permit:

- Deborah Reed Trust – 118 Old Coach Road (123-021-000) – Replace two windows and kitchen cabinets. APPROVED
- Miriam & Norman Cordell – 684 Burpee Hill Road (056-005-000) – Amend BP 14-096 to increase entry area to 57 square feet and move location of door. APPROVED
- Karl & Sandy Schmid – 379 Brookside Drive (121-019-000) – Replace existing shingles with metal shingles. APPROVED
- Keith Faccone & Mark Pederson – 16 Hominy Pot Road (132-007-000) – Add 4 windows to existing garage. APPROVED
- Paul Bianchi & Barbara Dunbar – 363-B Bunker Road (062-022-000) – Remove cottage from site. APPROVED
- Benjamin & Abigail Crowell – 369 Burnt Hill Road (017-001-000) – Build a new barn. APPROVED
- John & Christa Hill – 10 Old Village Road (059-039-000) – Add on to existing garage and mudroom – extension of BP 13-113 APPROVED
- Elizabeth C. Kent – 101 Lamson Lane (049-015-000) – Build 24' x 28' detached garage. APPROVED
- Karl & Elizabeth Anne Pankow – 113 Squires Lane (096-023-000) – Demo existing garage and rebuild in same footprint (2 permits) APPROVED

Application for Use of Whipple Hall:

- Sunapee Region Board of Realtors (NHAR) – December 2, 2014 from 8am – 12pm – APPROVED
- New England Repertory Theatre Company – Rehearsals & performances between April 7, 2015 and May 10, 2015. Use of hall and conference room. APPROVED

Application for Temporary Signs:

- Kearsarge Chorale – Info Booth and Main Street side of campus. 11/9/14 – 11/16/14
- Woodcrest Village Assisted Living – 356 Main Street. 11/17/14 – 11/22/14
- St. Andrew's Church – Info Booth. 11/29/14 – 12/7/14

Other Items to be Signed:

- Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Tracy Prescott, Elkins Road (077-041-000)
- Authorization for Linda Hardy to collect and remit municipality boat fees per RSA 72-A:3
- Permit for a Temporary Structure – Karl & Elizabeth Anne Pankow (096-023-000) on 113 Squires Lane.
- Warrant for Land Use Change Tax – Current Use

Chief Andersen said his department has received word about a possible disturbance around Halloween and is monitoring the situation. He informed the Board that he would be in touch with the police departments in surrounding towns as well as the college and hospital.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London